

ENRICHMENT: SACRED ART

God the Father, detail from [Baptism of Christ](#), by Giovanni Bellini

Full-page image available on page 18 or on the parent portal.

When we pray while looking at this painting, we learn what God has done for us. [Begin with the Sign of the Cross.](#)

Look carefully at God's face.

What does the face of God tell you about God the Father?

We see God the Father, who is loving. We see a bearded old man lovingly watching over creation. He reminds us of God the Father. The gentle, peaceful face of God reminds us that God is love. We draw close to God in faith because God is love.

Look at the rays of golden light in the scene.

What does the background tell you about God?

Against the heavens, God the Father is dressed in bright robes of red and blue with gold decoration. God sits in the heavens in a sky with white clouds. We are reminded that God exists outside of time. This painting reminds us that God is eternal. Rays of warm golden sunlight in the background are like the dawn of creation when the world began. The world began with the loving Word of God. Yet God existed before the creation of the world and will exist forever.

Notice the hands and arms of God.

What do God's gestures teach you about the love of God?

God's hands are open. His arms are outstretched toward us. God's hands and arms offer us a loving invitation. God is love. The divine love of God is the source of the world's creation. Our loving friendship with God is the reason for our creation. We were created to enter into a loving and lifelong friendship with God.

Look carefully at the painting again and think about God's open arms.

Do you open your arms to God's love every day?

[Conclude by praying the Our Father as a family.](#)

